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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/614,295	07/08/2003	Ryosuke Yonekura	2003_0928A	7391

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EXAMINER

KORNAKOV, MICHAIL

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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10/614295

EXAMINER

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20061010

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

1. The reply filed on 08/01/2006 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): Claim 6 as currently amended would have been restricted from the initially presented claim 6 as inventions being in combination and subcombination relationship. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability because it includes the processing steps which may impart patentability to the amended claim 6, such steps to include cleaning an inner wall of the cleaning vessel by a second nozzle; continuing cleaning of the surface of the object with the third nozzle for a predetermined time after completion of said cleaning of the...cleaning vessel. It is also noted that currently amended claim 6 (combination) does not require rinsing the object to be cleaned. The initially presented claim 6 (subcombination) can be utilized for processing steel articles by pickling or in the other combinations, requiring cleaning the article during processing such as manufacturing semiconductor devices.

The newly introduced claim 15 would also have been restricted from the initially presented claim 6 as inventions being in combination and subcombination relationship. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability because it includes the processing steps which may impart patentability to the newly introduced claim 15, such steps to include spraying a liquid from a fourth liquid spray nozzle to clean an inner wall of the cleaning vessel; spraying surface of the substrate after spraying of the inner wall of the cleaning cup and the inner wall of the cleaning vessel are stopped. It is also noted that claim 15 (combination) does not require cleaning an inner wall of said cleaning cup, following said chemical liquid cleaning step. The initially presented claim 6 (subcombination) can be utilized for processing steel articles by pickling or in the other combinations, requiring cleaning the article during processing such as manufacturing semiconductor devices. It is noted that cleaning the inner walls of the cleaning vessel and the use of different nozzles for cleaning the substrate, the vessel and the cup have never been presented before. Since applicants have received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, currently amended claims 6, 10, 11 and newly presented claims 15 and 16 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03. Therefore, at the present time there are no claims to examine (see 37 CFR 1.111). Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be bona fide, applicant is given ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

M. KORNAKOV

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Art Unit: 1746